



# Open Access - A challenge for smaller research libraries

LIBER Annual Conference 2021, June 23 2021

Elisa Herrmann, Stefanie Paß, Jana Rumler

# Agenda

- › Who we are
- › Current services to support the research process
- › Survey & Results  
“Open Access as a challenge for museum libraries“



Hwa Ja Goetz/MfN (2019)

# Who we are – Museum für Naturkunde Berlin



<https://www.museumfuernaturkunde.berlin/en/about/the-museum>

- › Integrated and **increasingly open** research museum of the **Leibniz Association** with research partners in Berlin, Germany and about 60 other countries
- › one of the world's most important research institutions in the field of biological and geoscientific evolution and biodiversity
- › More than **700,000 visitors** per year
- › **Scientific research** and our **collection** as the main infrastructure are the central pillars of the museum, along with **knowledge transfer**
- › The collection contains more than **30 million objects** from zoology, paleontology, geology and mineralogy and is of the highest scientific and scientific-historical importance

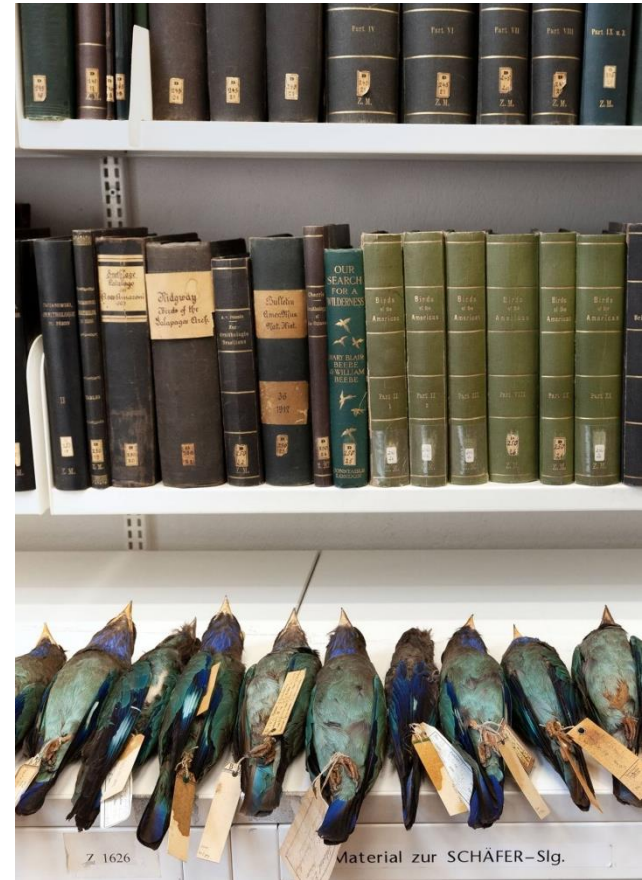
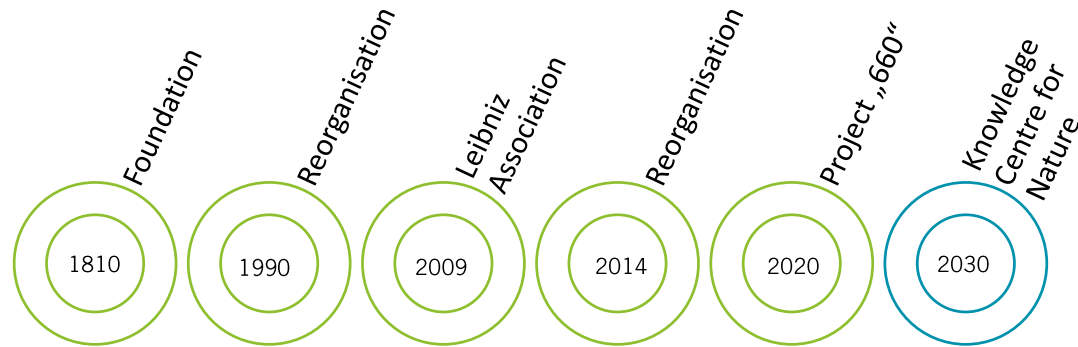
**Session: Open Access: a Case for Diversity and Inclusion - Open Access - A challenge for smaller research libraries**

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# Who we are – Library

We are a special library and support the scientific community, public authorities and all interested persons along the entire research and creative process with personal expertise and open access as an important scientific information infrastructure and service institution.

We provide analog and digital space for exchange, acquire, preserve, and disseminate knowledge and creative expression. The library is strengthened through strategic partnerships.



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# Who we are – Library

## 3 Main location

Full-time service by library staff  
35 Service hours

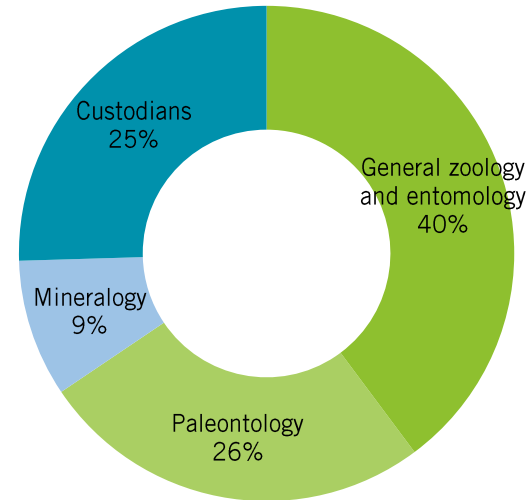
## 23 Custodial libraries and other Locations

Primary care by custodians

## › Fields of action

- Information procurement & provision
- Inventory maintenance
- Consultation service for scientific publishing (since 2017)
- Coordination of the museums journals (since 2014 open access)
- Imparting information and media competence
- (Retro-) Digitization

## Structure of the library



# Coordination Office for Scientific Publishing

2021

Reevaluation of Open Access Policy  
Proposal Open Access Publication Cost German Research Foundation

2020

Reevaluation of Publication Database and licence management

2019

Finalization of the museum's Open Access Policy  
Participation in Project DEAL

2018

Internal OA-Policy Workshops (survey and Open Access Policy draft)  
Full membership of Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL)

2017

**Kick-off** Coordination Office for Scientific Publishing and publication management

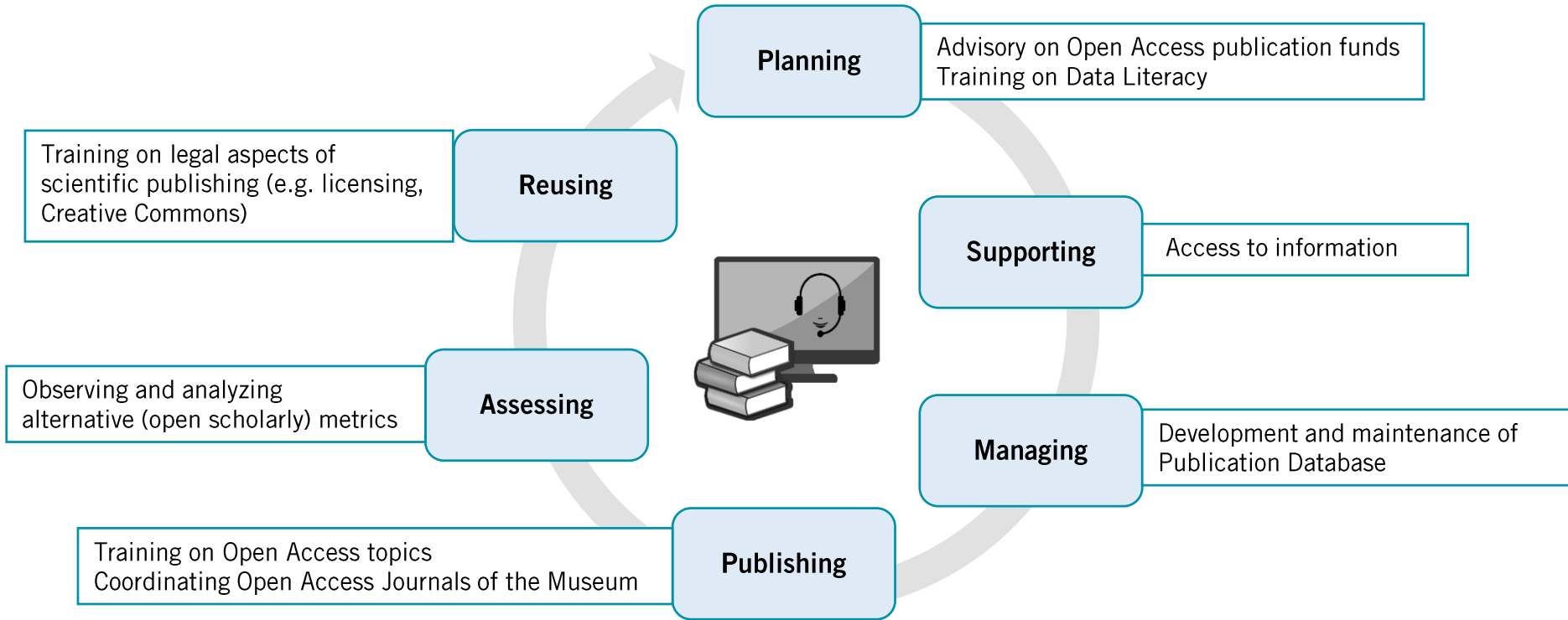
**Weißpflug & Paß** (2019)  
Open for Nature  
DOI: [10.7479/tnnh-h2vc](https://doi.org/10.7479/tnnh-h2vc)



**Paß, Glöckler, Hoffmann** (2018)  
Wissenschaftliches Publizieren  
am Museum für Naturkunde Berlin  
DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.1410374](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1410374)



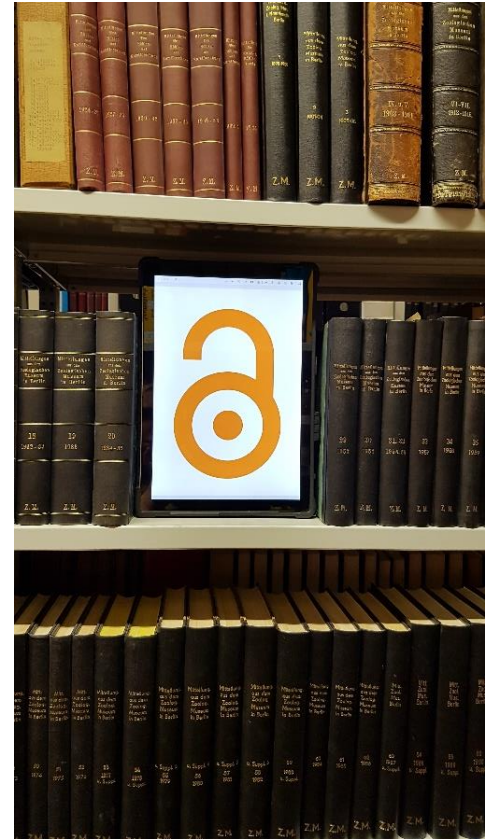
# Current services to support the research process



# Why this survey?

## “Open Access as a challenge for museum libraries“

- What are the biggest obstacles that smaller research libraries face?
- What additional needs do museum libraries have in order to implement open access at their institution?
- Are there best practices that could be adopted at other institutions?



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# Survey results

## › Definition “museum libraries“

1. the library is an **economic, spatial and personnel-related organisational component** of a museum or an association of several museums.
2. the library serves **non-commercial purposes** (which includes that it has an educational mission and is financed by public funds or by private or ecclesiastical, but in any case not-for-profit donors).
3. the library has a **significant stock of media**, which is made accessible by appropriate means of cataloguing.
4. the media stock as well as the new media to be acquired have a **close thematic connection to the contents and aims of the museum**, its holdings and other museum-relevant topics.
5. the library is ideally **managed permanently** by a person primarily responsible for it or by a person designated for this purpose in a part-time capacity
6. the library is accessible either for internal use and/or to the public and, in the best case, lends its media holdings to authorised users or makes the media available for consultation in a supervised reading room. The **library's holdings serve scientific research** inside and outside the museum or are themselves part of the museum's collections because of their age, rarity, value or because of their content.

Source: Miller, Matthias (2014): Wer sind wir? Und wenn ja: wie viele? Museumsbibliotheken in Deutschland – Versuch eines Überblicks. AKMB-news (20,2), pp. 16-20. DOI: 10.11588/AKMB.2014.2.26480

# Survey results

## 1. General Information on the library operation

- 1.1. Which sciences are represented in your house?
- 1.2. How is the library organized?
- 1.3. What is your priority use concept?
- 1.4. How large is the library's collection?

## 2. General questions about Open Access and publication management at your institution

- 2.1 What is the position of OA in your institution?
- 2.2. Who supervises or monitors publication activities at your institution?
- 2.3. Is your library known as a contact point for OA topics?
- 2.4. What issues and challenges do you face in your institution with regard to OA?
- 2.5. What assistance or supportive measures would be needed to overcome the above-mentioned challenges?

## 3. Self-evaluation

- 3.1. Organizational framework
- 3.2. Which contents are included in your guideline/service agreement?
- 3.3. Advisory bodies

## 4. Questions about Open Science

- 4.1. Are there any efforts or strategies regarding Open Science in your institution?
- 4.2. Are you as a library involved in such strategy processes on Open Science?
- 4.3. Are there any best practice examples that show how Open Access or Open Science is implemented at your institution?
- 4.4. Further measures and/or information on this subject

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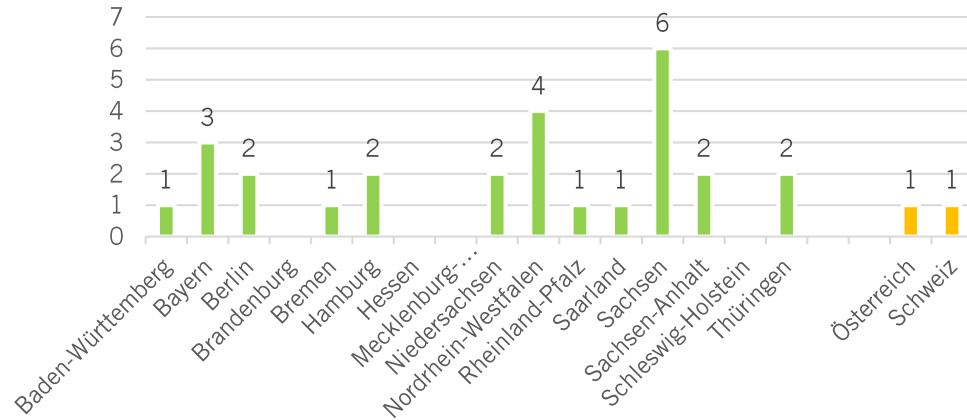
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# Survey results

Most of the participating institutions are foundations under public law. A few private foundations are also represented, but all of them are non-profit.

## 1.1. Participation by federated states / country

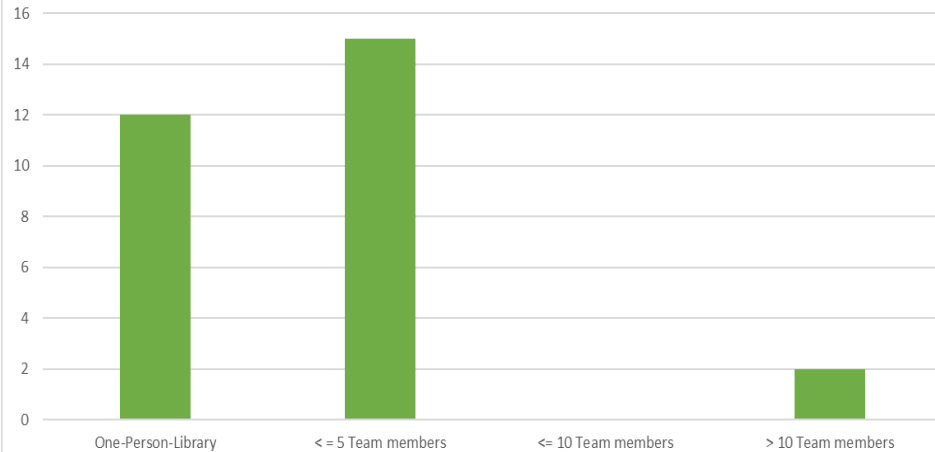


Based on: [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:D-A-CH\\_location\\_map.svg](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:D-A-CH_location_map.svg)

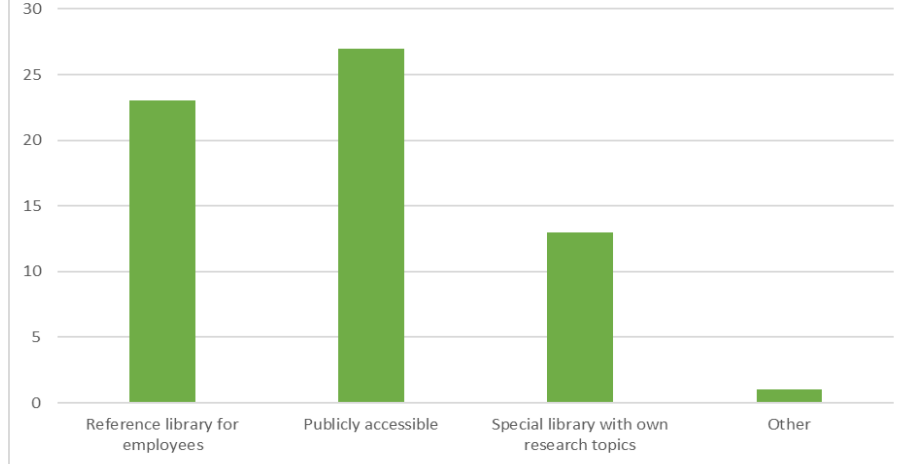
# Survey results

## 1. General information

1.2 How is the library organized?



1.3. What is your priority utilization concept?



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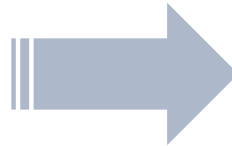
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# Survey results

## 2. General questions about Open Access and publication management

### › Questions and challenges regarding Open Access

Reservations about OA	1
Legal issues	1
few opportunities for participation	1
Issues with secondary publication right	2
few time resources	2
in need of additional expertise	2
Copyright issues	3
difficult clarification of image rights	4
Organizational infrastructure	5
Lack of organizational driving force	6
little budget	9
few human resources	10
Technical Infrastructure	10

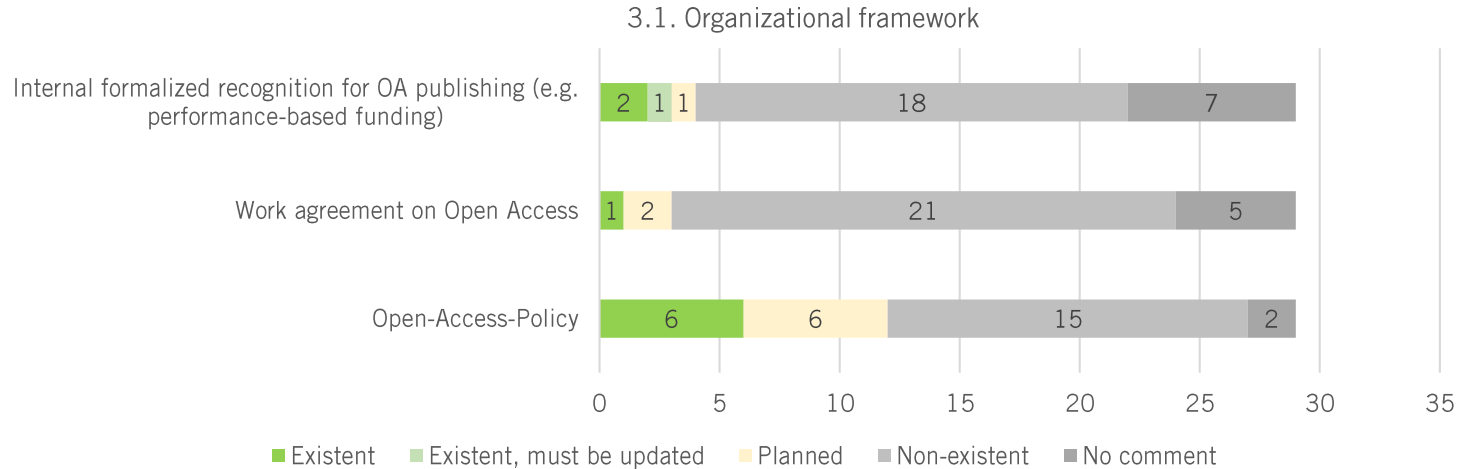


### › Needs to adress challenges and obstacles

Information on legal issues	1
Best Practice examples	1
Solution for image rights	2
Practical guide	2
Change in research culture	2
Cooperation partners	2
Contact person	3
Advanced training	4
Additional budget	5
Technical solutions/support	5
Internal consensus/awareness-raising at management level	6
Additional staff	7

# Survey results

## 3. Self-evaluation



### Comments on 3.1.

- 1: It was considered to anchor the obligation for OA in the new employment contracts, but this was rejected by the management because they did not want to create an imbalance to already existing contracts without an OA clause.
- 2: The Public Relations/Publications Department was restructured and re-staffed just a few months ago, and all OA plans must be coordinated with the Museum Board's Cultural Affairs Department.
- 3: Open access guidelines are taken into account in conjunction with partner [University](technical infrastructure).
- 4: Does work agreement mean e.g. signing of the Berlin Declaration (then yes) or actually passage in the employment contract (then no).
- 5: Open Access Policy is available as a draft and is being discussed in the Management Committee.
- 6: Previous internal OA publications were made to match the exhibition theme!


# Survey results









## 4. Best Practices

### ›Online Platforms

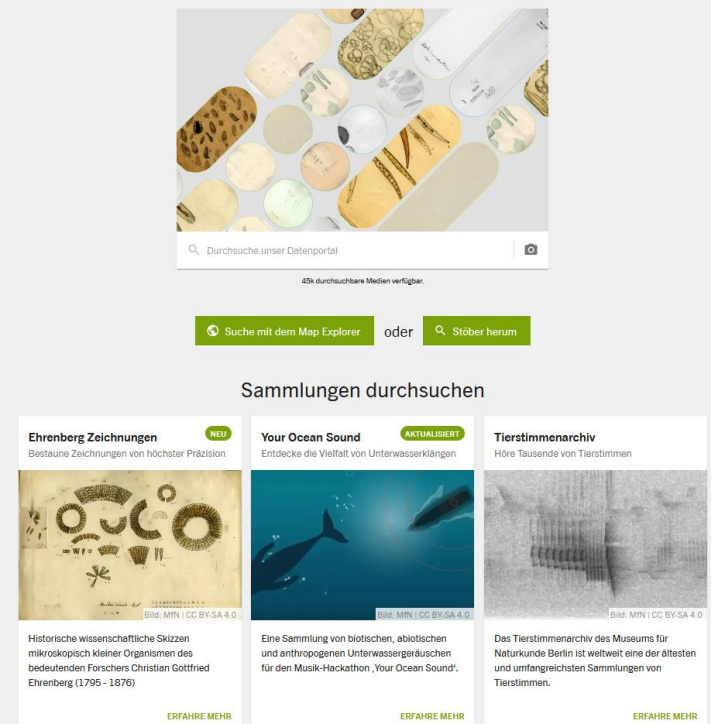


## Datenportal

**Deutsches Museum**  **DIGITAL**



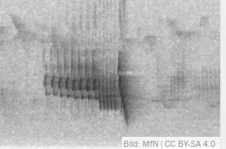
 <p>Astronomie Geschichte der Astronomie</p>	 <p>Meisterwerke Technik, Geschichte, Meisterwerke</p>	 <p>Die 50er Jahre Entwicklungen in den 50er Jahren</p>	 <p>Kraftmaschinen Unsere treibende Kraft</p>
 <p>Siemens historisch Ein Weg voller Innovationen</p>	 <p>Musikinstrumente Klangerzeuger und Menschen</p>	 <p>Kameras Eine Geschichte der Fotografie</p>	 <p>Kryptographie Geheime Schätze - Chiffriermaschinen</p>

<https://digital.deutsches-museum.de>



Suche mit dem Map Explorer oder Stöber herum

Sammlungen durchsuchen

<b>Ehrenberg Zeichnungen</b> <span>NEU</span> Beste Zeichnungen von höchster Präzision  Bild: MN   CC BY-SA 4.0	<b>Your Ocean Sound</b> <span>AKTUALISIERT</span> Entdecke die Vielfalt von Unterwasserklängen  Bild: MN   CC BY-SA 4.0	<b>Tierstimmenarchiv</b> Höre Tausende von Tierstimmen  Bild: MN   CC BY-SA 4.0
<p>Historische wissenschaftliche Skizzen mikroskopisch kleiner Organismen des bedeutenden Forschers Christian Gottfried Ehrenberg (1795 - 1876)</p> <p><a href="#">ERFAHRE MEHR</a></p>	<p>Eine Sammlung von biotischen, abiotischen und anthropogenen Unterwassergeräuschen für den Musik-Hackathon 'Your Ocean Sound'.</p> <p><a href="#">ERFAHRE MEHR</a></p>	<p>Das Tierstimmenarchiv des Museums für Naturkunde Berlin ist weltweit eine der ältesten und umfangreichsten Sammlungen von Tierstimmen.</p> <p><a href="#">ERFAHRE MEHR</a></p>

<https://portal.museumfuernaturkunde.berlin>

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# Survey results

## 4. Best Practices

- › Exhibition Catalogues
- › Journal Websites

# Collecting in Time

GFZK – Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst Leipzig

The collage displays a grid of article thumbnails with titles such as "Caring Activism, Assembly, Collection, and the Museum" by Zita Zizary, "Forms of Participation, Attention Economies and the Becoming-Event of the Exhibition" by Dorotea von Hanselmann, "A feminist collection? Institutional responses to political practices" by Lara Perry, "As I Live and Breathe: Contemporary Collections Online" by Lisa Heise-Glaz, "Evaluation of the collection. Global interdependencies in the inventories of the National Gallery as a part of the National Museums in Berlin" by Jeroen Duijckinck, "Collecting Elsewhere" by Ruth Noack, "Sedimented conflicts and alternative archives: Creating (or confronting) collections" by Martina Griesser and Nora Stergfeld, "International / Interdisciplinary: 500 Years of Collecting for the Future" by Marion Ackermann, "Becoming a museum (collection)" by Aleksandra Ajkovic, "Practicing Deviance: Notes on collections, constituencies and constitutions" by Nick Adams, "Not (to move): Concerning Permanence" by Concluding discussion with all contributors, "Some Transversality" by Zsuzsanna von Blumhagen, "Latency and appearance. Public collection practice as an example of the Kulturstriffung of the Free State of Saxony" by Michael Frey, and "Collecting Resources" by Ina Löffelholz and Franziska Zöllner. Each thumbnail includes a small video player icon and a brief text snippet.

<https://collecting-in-time.gfzk.de/en>



<https://journals.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/fuabt/issue/archive>

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# Conclusion

- › Networks, national tools/projects as well as projects on federal level are available
- › Challenge to transfer this to the institution/museum
  - › A. Lack of personnel/expertise in the library
  - › B. Lack of technical infrastructure
  - › C. Lack of organizational infrastructure for such issues – central point of contact (can be the library - if A&B is given)
  - › D. Lack of understanding/knowledge at strategic levels within the institution or within the funding/sponsoring organization



<https://pixabay.com/photos/umbrella-sky-screen-colorful-846185/>

# Conclusion

- › What can LIBER and other international as well as national networks do?
  - › Developing Tools
  - › Offering training and workshops
  - › Offering guidelines, material, etc.
- › What needs to be done on a higher level?
  - › Clarification of handling of legal rights in connection with OA (esp. images and videos in Art and Cultural Studies)
  - › Stronger discussion concerning OA and Open Science within local, regional and national (political) management level



<https://pixabay.com/photos/umbrella-sky-screen-colorful-846185/>

*Lern Natur*  
*FÜR NATURE*  
*Natur*  
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**MUSEUM FÜR  
NATURKUNDE  
BERLIN**